



TYRINGHAM

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Tyringham, a valley town in Berkshire County, was formally incorporated in 1762 as Plantation #1. But the community is one of four whose history begins in 1735 when the Great and General Court voted to create townships to provide some protection for the wilderness trail that was at that time the main route between the lower Housatonic Valley and the Connecticut Valley and Boston. Development of towns along and beside the route was expected to make using the trail less dangerous and more comfortable. The Court laid out house lots of between 40 to 80 acres and allocated one to each of the 63 original settlers. Tyringham had considerable good farming land even though the town is crossed by two heavy ranges of hills.

Scandal erupted in Tyringham early in its history, when the townspeople in 1808 voted to dismiss their minister, Joseph Avery, after 19 years of service. Avery sued and won reinstatement, and historians note the case created the legal principle that ministers hold their tenure for life unless

they leave by mutual agreement. But church members refused to pay taxes for Avery's support which in turn led to the formation in 1809 of a society of parishioners who voluntarily pledged their financial support for their church and minister. This later became one of the models for church support everywhere. Tyringham is said to have been given its name by Lord Viscount Howe a few days before he fell at the battle of Ticonderoga, after a town in England in which he owned an estate.

Hop Brook in Tyringham is considered by sportsmen to be one of the five best trout streams in the country and President Grover Cleveland, visiting friends with his wife at a summer home in Tyringham, fished Hop Brook, although it is not recorded whether he caught anything. Along with summer homes and estates of the wealthy, the 19th century also saw the development of paper mills in 1832, rope factories and cider mills. These along with farming served as the foundations of the town's economy. In the 20th century, industry has largely departed, and the town is known as a rural residential community which still serves as the home of wealthy and famous summer residents and visitors.

(Narrative compiled from historical materials)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Becket and Otis on the east, Monterey on the south and southwest, Great Barrington on the west, and Lee on the northwest and north. Tyringham is 16 miles south of Pittsfield and 137 miles west of Boston.

Total Area: 18.94 sq. miles

Land Area: 18.71 sq. miles

Population: 369

Density: 20 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Monterey, East Lee, Great Barrington

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 243-1749

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1762

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	231		
Democrats	35	15.2	%
Republicans	22	9.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	174	75.3	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Tyringham town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	350	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	350	100.0
Male.....	176	50.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	1	0.3
Female.....	174	49.7	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	12	3.4	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	11	3.1	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	30	8.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	20	5.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	349	99.7
20 to 24 years.....	15	4.3	White alone.....	334	95.4
25 to 34 years.....	21	6.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	45	12.9	Total population.....	350	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	70	20.0	In households.....	340	97.1
55 to 59 years.....	35	10.0	Householder.....	133	38.0
60 to 64 years.....	37	10.6	Spouse.....	88	25.1
65 to 74 years.....	32	9.1	Child.....	91	26.0
75 to 84 years.....	10	2.9	Own child under 18 years.....	57	16.3
85 years and over.....	12	3.4	Other relatives.....	12	3.4
Median age (years).....	47.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	5	1.4
18 years and over.....	285	81.4	Nonrelatives.....	16	4.6
Male.....	145	41.4	Unmarried partner.....	7	2.0
Female.....	140	40.0	In group quarters.....	10	2.9
21 years and over.....	274	78.3	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	72	20.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	10	2.9
65 years and over.....	54	15.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	28	8.0	Total households.....	133	100.0
Female.....	26	7.4	Family households (families).....	99	74.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	32	24.1
One race.....	345	98.6	Married-couple family.....	88	66.2
White.....	334	95.4	With own children under 18 years.....	25	18.8
Black or African American.....	1	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	8	6.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	6	4.5
Asian.....	9	2.6	Nonfamily households.....	34	25.6
Asian Indian.....	8	2.3	Householder living alone.....	27	20.3
Chinese.....	1	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	12	9.0
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	37	27.8
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	37	27.8
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.56	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.93	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	265	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	133	50.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	132	49.8
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	119	44.9
Some other race.....	-	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	5	1.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	8.3	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	133	100.0
White.....	338	96.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	111	83.5
Black or African American.....	1	0.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	22	16.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.62	(X)
Asian.....	13	3.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.23	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	0.3			
Some other race.....	-	-			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Tyringham is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports. Public roads and highways meet the requirements of modern transportation.

Major Highways

No numbered state highways pass through Tyringham. The principal highways serving the town are U.S. Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), which skirt the northern border of Tyringham and are easily accessible in the neighboring town of Lee.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Tyringham, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Tyringham is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The Great Barrington Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,579'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Tyringham Art Galleries

Tyringham Road

(413) 243-3260

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.